

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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## The Freeholders' Suit.

We have purposely refrained from any editorial comment upon the indictment which the September Grand Jury presented against the Chosen Freeholders of Essex County, because we knew the defendants would be accorded a fair and impartial trial, and we had every reason to feel confident that such a trial would result in their acquittal.

In common with the great body of the citizens of this county, we felt that there could be no just ground for bringing such a charge against men who occupied the position, and enjoyed the reputation, of these gentlemen, and we waited patiently until the regular proceedings of a court of justice should force the complaining witnesses to disclose their case.

As the trial day approached, the prosecution perceptibly weakened. They began to realize that it is one thing to charge men with a crime and quite another thing to prove them guilty. On Saturday, Judge Depue, at the request of Prosecutor Keen, quashed the first count of the indictment as to all the parties; and he also quashed the whole indictment as to all the defendants except the Warden, the Superintendent, and the five members of the board who compose the Lunacy Committee.

This was a confession on the part of the State that the Grand Jury had acted upon illegal and insufficient evidence, and that they had no confidence in their own case.

On Tuesday morning the trial was begun, and then the attention of the court was called to the fact that the indictment, on its face, did not charge a crime upon the gentlemen who composed the Lunacy Committee of the Board, and that there was nothing in it which, by any rules of law, could be held to require a defense from the men; and, on Wednesday, Judge Depue quashed the indictment against Mr. McGowan and his associates on that committee.

Thus the case has ended as to the Freeholders. It has been judicially determined that the Grand Jury have not presented to the courts one single charge upon which the suit could be maintained. The vindication of our county board is as full and complete as if the court had ordered an acquittal of these defendants.

It is true that the suit is continued against the Superintendent, Dr. Hinckley, and the Steward, Mr. Heustis, but from the character of the evidence produced by the State, there seems to be no reason to suppose that they are guilty.

The conduct of the September Grand Jury is in our opinion open to the severest criticism, and it is frequently charged that, in finding this indictment, they were not governed by the evidence which was produced before them, but have been influenced by persons and motives that have no place in the jury room.

If this is true, and they have acted in violation of their solemn oath "to present no one through envy, hatred, or malice," then the next Grand Jury should investigate the conduct of the men who voted for this indictment.

This case against the Freeholders has done more to bring contempt upon the Grand Jury system than any other event in many years.

If the citizens of this county may be called upon to plead to charges of crime upon such shallow and insufficient testimony as appears to have been produced in this case, it is time the law was changed in that particular.

The members of the Board of Freeholders have suffered an indignity, and have had put upon them a stigma which cannot easily be removed. They have for months been compelled to live with this indictment hanging over their heads. It is true that they have from the first been sustained by their own consciousness of innocence, and by the fact that the community, without regard to party, has denounced the outrage to

which they have been subjected, but no man of sensitive feeling desires to pass through such an ordeal.

We are happy to say that the people of Bloomfield have been unanimous in the expression of their respect and confidence in our own representatives, Messrs. McGowan and Cadmus, and their satisfaction with the result of this case is deep and sincere.

There is but little inducement to our citizens to consent to serve the county in the Board of Freeholders after this experience, but we venture the prediction that if Mr. McGowan and Mr. Cadmus will accept a renomination next spring, they will be elected by a majority which will conclusively prove that the people of Bloomfield are still their loyal and devoted constituents.

## Hobbies.

Equestrian statues are out of date; people refuse to take them seriously. To be on horseback, at an angle of 45 degrees, is seldom graceful or imposing. A good figure, fine features, an intellectual face are best seen without the accessories of horse-flesh, army saddle, and massive sword. Yet people like to ride. It may be a fancy; but it is real. There is no homage like that paid to one's own virtues and powers. The boy's drum, sword and cap; his new pants, boots or cane; may seem trifling to the multitude, to himself they make a new era in life.

Hobbies were made to ride, and the youth rides them with enthusiasm, pride, and determination. There are personal hobbies—a thorough belief in one's ideas of music, literature, art, religion, society, clothes. One's individuality is involved in his hobbies. He believes in art, so he lengthens his hair, and shortens his pants, elevates his nose, and talks of harmonies of color and the moral influence of estheticism. If business is his God, literature is incomprehensible, science useless and society of doubtful utility. He talks "shop," thinks "shop," and shows it at his elbows and the slope of the trousers.

The last party, the last novel, the last game, dance, engagement, or marriage, figure in the talk of the society man. The lover of music is devoted to the opera, the devotee of out-door sports talks horse, yacht, or base-ball with equal facility. Each has his hobby; each rides it unceasingly; until stimulated by exercise and over-feeding it runs away with its rider, like the seven-league boots of the flying Dutchman, landing him in strange company, or in the slough of everlasting bankruptcy. What would the world be without its hobbies! Sculpture, painting, music, poetry, architecture, conquest—each in its turn has been mounted by whole nations, to become at last their desire, their only aim.

The world has need to beware of its enthusiasts. Crusades against infidels and knight-errantry, are romantic, but hardly enjoyable to the actors. The men who would cure all diseases with hot baths, cold dips, or patent pills; those that frequent funerals, talk horrors, magnify troubles, and ventilate scandals, are but mounting their favorites for a ride. To the miser a ten cent piece held to the eyes is larger than the moon; to the school-man there is interest so important as that of the young; to him who has gone "long" on gas, the prevailing need is for more light; the fireman dreams continually of fires, the horseman longs for better roads, the dyspeptic for pure water, the victim of malaria would be happy with sewers unending. Each has his heaven of happiness, where the crooked shall be made straight, and the world shall run in one familiar groove.

It is hard to take all men seriously; albeit, they are thoroughly in earnest. The world was never converted in a day by eloquent preaching, or cured of stealing by severe punishments. Cholera, diphtheria, hydrophobia, though mounted upon white horses, like death, are not invincible. Fires burn, and liquors destroy; but they who would check their need not plunge with their hobbies desperately into the dark. The days of knight-errantry have ceased, but the hobbies are still in vogue.

Because enthusiasm is indispensable to success it is not necessary to become a fanatic. The steam-engine is a mighty power but it needs a governor to regulate the stroke of the piston, and a balance-wheel to prevent the breaking of the machinery.

Learning should be broad and deep if it is special. In the family, the church, the state, there must be a balance to guide the action of the individual. It would be well also if each man were so to govern his thoughts, words and acts, as to avoid the suspicion that he has mounted his charger for a new plunge.

Especially now, that elections are near, when officers are to be chosen and appropriations voted, let a tight rein be kept upon the hobby, for conscience sake and the good of mankind.

## Notice of Settlement.

Notice is hereby given that the Accounts of the Subscribers, Assignee of Cyrus Pieron, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate, and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, on Monday, the fifteenth day of March next. Dated Jan. 6, 1886.  
JOSEPH D. GALLAGHER  
WM. H. BROWN, Sheriff  
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SHERIFF'S SALE—In Chancery of New Jersey, Between Joseph Kingland, Jr., and others, complainants, and Elizabeth Ackerman, and others, defendants. Fl. fa, for sale of mortgaged premises.

By virtue of the above stated writ of fieri facias, to me directed, I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the court house in Newark, on Tuesday the sixteenth day of February next, at 2 o'clock P. M., all the tracts or parts of land and other immovable situate, lying and being in the townships of Bellerville and Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey.

The first tract—Situate in the township of Bellville, beginning at the northeasterly corner of the land now being conveyed in the middle of the public road leading from Acquackanckonick to Newark, being also the northern boundary of said tract, extending to James L. Morris and the northwesterly corner of a tract of land belonging to Abraham Jordaman; thence (1) northwesterly along the line of James L. Morris five chains more or less to lands belonging to Harmans Speer; thence (2) southerly along the line of said Harmans Speer's land to belonging to John Duncan; thence (3) southwesterly along the said five chains and thence (4) southerly along the said tract, thence along the middle of said road to the place of beginning containing two acres more or less. Bounded north by lands of James L. Morris, west by lands of Harmans Speer, south by lands of John Duncan, and east by lands of Abraham Jordaman, being the middle of said road.

The second tract—Situate in the township of Bloomfield, beginning on the westerly side of a certain driftway and at the southwest corner of lot numbered No. Two on a map of lots late of Henry Ackerman, deceased, made by Joseph K. Oakes, bearing date March 28, 1855, and filed in the Clerk's Office of Essex County, and in the line of lands of Alfred Cockefair; thence (1) south forty-four degrees and thirty minutes west five chains and fifty-three links; thence (2) along the line of said driftway and thence along the middle of said driftway containing two acres more or less. Bounded north by certain driftway abutting on the east the lands of John Lawrence; thence (4) along west line of driftway south ten degrees, west one chain and eighty-seven links, and thence (5) along some south forty-four degrees, west one chain and thirty-eight links to beginning. Being lot number one on said map, containing 2 1/2 acres more or less.

The above described property will be sold in parcels, as directed in the writ.

Newark, N. J., January 14, 1885.  
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months then ending. All deposits made on or

before the second day of January will bear interest

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withdrawn.

THOS. C. DODD,

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